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Statements of AF Representative at Watch Committee

Meeting of 13 Aug. 1952

1. "In addition to the revetment construction activity (in Germany and Austria) and an extensive airfield and runway improvement program under way throughout the Satellites and East Germany, there are other indications that the Soviets are making considerable progress in improving the overall capabilities of the air units of the Satellite and Soviet Zone air forces. A review of the current status of the Soviet air forces in Eastern Europe indicates that since 1948 the Soviets have made slow but steady progress in the jet reequipping program of the three Soviet air armies in this area. The conversion to jet light bombers has also shown progress, although not as extensive or as rapid as the jet fighter program."*

2. The AF representative commented during the meeting that over the past year or so around virtually the whole ~~area~~ of the Iron Curtain there has been a steady rise in Soviet air facilities. More aircraft have gone to operational units, including more jets; more airfields have been built, and old ones have been improved, radar coverage has been greatly expanded-- and improved with the introduction of GPS-6 types; [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]. Over the summer, "intensive and exhaustive" tests of the Soviet defense system have been carried on, and "there is no doubt of great improvement in the PVO structure" in both its detection and interception aspects. [REDACTED]

* From Watch Committee Report #106, 14 Aug. 52, TS.

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